

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 23, 2009 has been reviewed carefully and the application has been amended in sincere effort to place it in condition for allowance. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4, 21 – 24, 28 – 30 and new Claim 48 are pending. New Claim 48 has been added to better claim the invention.

Claims 3, 7, 9-11, 13, 20, 26, 32, 34-47 were withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement.

Claims 1, 5-6, 8, 12, 14 – 19, 25, 27, 31 and 33 were cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 4, 21-24 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0197892 to Bilibin et al. (“Bilibin”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,420 to Guidice et al. (“Guidice”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,285,777 to Kanevsky et al. (“Kanevsky”).

Bilibin describes an auction/e-commerce system that includes a zone level rating for each of multiple carriers. The Examiner points to Figs. 51 through 54 of Bilibin as teaching linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifier. This user identifier allows the user to log into the auction/e-commerce system. [Paragraph 0475]. Once the user has logged into the system, the user can view screen displays such as those illustrated in Figs. 51 through 54 on a computer, which screen displays provide selections that a user may make to ship a package including, for example, printing out a shipping label for the package to be shipped by the user of the service. Fig. 54 describes a method

by which a label is generated and printed. Bilibin discusses assistance to users of its auction/e-commerce web site, including choosing a shipper of the user's choice. [Paragraph 162]. Then, the seller of the item may inform the buyer/bidder of the shipping option. In order to make the selection, the user navigates to the Bilibin system home page. [Paragraph 140]. Thus, the user must navigate to the system web site in order to engage in the functionality provided by the auction/e-commerce system. In contrast, in Applicant's claimed invention, the user has his/her own personal web page through which the user may access information about many packages and mail pieces and the like that are being shipped to or sent by the user from one of a number of different delivery companies.

Furthermore, Applicant's claimed invention does not merely provide for user selections and printing labels, but instead acquires information *from one or more mail piece sources, postal services or delivery companies and from such information, creates linked information for each mail piece containing at least one of: information about the mail piece, delivery status information, address and delivery particulars, a digital copy of the mail piece, a summary of the mail piece, and an excerpt from the mail piece ...and associating the linked information with respective user identifiers.* Thus, many packages can be tracked and traced regardless of the supplier or e-commerce web site.

It is respectfully submitted that Bilibin alone does not disclose teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Guidice provides online tracking information of items purchased by a customer of a given supplier. More specifically, "...the customer is able to track the progress of recent orders, regardless of the carrier by which they are being shipped and *without the*

need to navigate off of the supplier's web site.” (Col. 6, lines 64 – 67) (Emphasis added).

At Col. 2, lines 14 – 15, Guidice states its system involves “the online tracking of orders placed with a supplier and shipped by any of a variety of different carriers, entirely within the confines of the supplier's web site.”

Applicant's invention, on the other hand, is not confined to an individual supplier's web site for a user tracking an order for goods, which order was placed by the user with the given supplier. Instead, Applicant's claimed invention further creates linked information about numerous packages or other mail pieces that have either been shipped to the user from any of a number of suppliers, or sent by the user to any of a number of destinations using one of many delivery companies or the postal service. Applicant's invention is not simply tracking orders placed by the user with a particular supplier on that supplier's web site.

Guidice, in fact, teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention in that Guidice teaches that the user tracks orders without navigating off the supplier's web site. Applicant's invention, in relevant part, avoids the need to navigate to each supplier's web site and to be confined to that web site. Applicant's claimed invention provides a user's personal web page to access linked information about various packages and orders that have been placed by the user with any of a number of different suppliers. Applicant's invention also allows a user to track packages and mail pieces that the user has sent to others. In accordance with one aspect of Applicant's invention, listings are provided ***on a user's personal web page such that respective listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to or sent from respective users are associated with the user identifier of that user.*** More specifically, such user identifiers are associated with the

linked information, which includes delivery status information, if desired in a particular application of the invention. The user is not required to navigate to and stay on the supplier's web site as taught by Guidice, but instead the user can access information about incoming and outgoing packages or mail pieces from a variety of suppliers and delivery companies.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Guidice alone does not render Applicant's invention obvious.

Kanevsky discloses the use of internet assisted mail piece tracking in such a manner that the post office scans incoming paper mail, then forwards the scanned information data to the user's email address or to the user's local post office. The post office forwards the scanned message via e-mail to the post office that is the closest to the physical address of the addressee. This post office, which is local to the addressee, downloads the message, prints a hard copy and delivers the hard copy to the address via the usual local mail routes. (Abstract)

In contrast, Applicant's invention is not directed to obtaining a piece of scanned mail in paper format, or email format. Instead, Applicant's claimed system acquires information about packages sent to or from the user and creates linked information that is associated with a user identifier, then the user associated with the user identifier may access information about packages that have either been sent to or sent by that user by one of a number of delivery companies.

Accordingly, Kanevsky does not alone disclose, teach or render obvious Applicant's claimed invention.

The combination of the three references, i.e., Bilibin, Guidice and Kanevsky does not render Applicant's invention obvious because the combination still does not include acquiring information about packages and mail pieces sent from many different sources using any number of delivery services or the postal service to the user, or sent by to the user to any number of destinations using one of the delivery services or postal service and causing such information to be made available to the user on the user's personal web page. The cited references, even when combined, do not teach creating linked information, associated with a particular user identifier, about mail pieces for which the user is identified as the sender or the intended recipient. Further, the combination still does not include acquiring information *from one or more mail piece sources, postal services or delivery companies and from such information, creates linked information for each mail piece containing at least one of: information about the mail piece, delivery status information, address and delivery particulars, a digital copy of the mail piece, a summary of the mail piece, and an excerpt from the mail piece ...and associating the linked information with respective user identifiers.*

Indeed, a combination of the three cited references only provides a user with a system by which the user can, for a package from a given supplier, create a label for the package to be sent, have the package sent and track the package through the given supplier's web site (or the auction/e-commerce system web site).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the cited references does not disclose, teach or render obvious Applicant's claimed invention.

In order to enhance the claims and to clarify the distinctions which Applicant's invention has over the cited references, all of the claims have been amended herein either

directly or through dependency. Support for the amendments and new claim 48 can be found in the originally filed Specification at Page 11, lines 22 – 29, Page 13, line 31 through Page 14, line 2, and Page 16, lines 11 – 14, and in other passages of the Specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references. All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. All dependent claims are dependent from independent claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, all dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application in any respect.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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